

King's dream floating adrift...

As Connie sees it

Opinion page 4

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Volume 12, Number 15

Serving The Greater Metropolitan Newark Area Since 1983

January 17 - January 23, 1996

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### GOVERNOR WHITMAN REPRIMANDS EMPLOYERS

TRENTON—Gov. Christie Whitman called on employers who penalized workers for staying home in the midst of the snowstorm to rethink that action. "We have received calls from more than 1,200 people who say they are being docked for failure to report to work on Monday," said Gov. Whitman. "We banned unnecessary road travel from Sunday through Tuesday morning because the roads were perilous and because we didn't want disabling vehicles to further exacerbate snow clean-up efforts," she said.

"I was stunned to learn that so many employers were taking such a hard-line on withholding pay," she said. She noted that the directive she issued Sunday morning declaring a state of emergency gave State Police extraordinary powers to maintain public safety on the roadways. As a result, the Superintendent of State Police, Col. Carl Williams banned all but essential travel—defined as police and emergency personnel and health care workers—until Tuesday at 5 a.m. The Department of Labor received in excess of 1,000 calls on Tuesday from employers who said their employees were docking their pay for failure to report for work on Monday. The Governor's Office of Constituent Relations received an additional 250 calls on Wednesday.

### GOP CALLS FOR FULL INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON DC—Rep. John Myers (R-IN), former ranking Republican member of the House Ethics Committee, recently told reporters that the special committee hired by the committee must be free to examine all ethics allegations against the speaker. Myers then resigned as Chairman of the House Gyn Committee, saying, "Gingrich runs every other committee up here. He may as well say that one too."

### RICE WANTS WALLS TO TUMBLE

NEWARK—Senator Ronald L. Rice said Gov. Christie Whitman showed a callous disregard for New Jersey's urban residents for vetoing his proposed Bill. Passed by a majority vote by both the senate and the assembly, Bill S-251 would have allowed \$35 million dollars in bonds to be used to help demolish the more than 2,000 abandoned buildings in the city of Newark.

Despite bipartisan support for the plan, the governor's rejection of the bill is based on her contention that the cost would have too great an impact on the state treasury at a time when it needs to be fiscally conservative. Although the amendments to the bill provided for the municipality applying to provide an equal amount in matching funds, the governor would not be swayed.

"The governor demonstrated her insensitivity to urban and rural New Jersey," said Senator Rice (D-Eng.). "She obviously cannot realize how abandoned buildings invite criminal activities, drain the local economy and run down property values. One abandoned building will hurt the entire neighborhood when insurance companies drop their coverages and homeowners can't sell their properties. Tearing down these buildings would inject new life into neighborhoods, ward off criminal activity, and help out the poor."

See WALLS page 3

# CITY NEWS

## STUDENTS TRAPPED IN POLICE SWEEP

by Charles Christol

NEWARK—In an effort to make some of Newark's citizens more comfortable, the city's administration has made its bus stop dangerous for two young men on their way to work. Timur Davis and Tyrone McCullough, both 20-year-old juniors at Jersey City State College, were waiting for the #13 bus at 10 a.m. on December 29 when they were arrested at a bus stop at Aldene Street and Lyons Avenue, as part of a police sweep of Newark's South Ward.

Timur Davis of Clifton Avenue, had been in the Woodgub section visiting his friend Tyrone McCullough and both men were on their way to work. Davis, who has been working for the Newark Public Library at the Madison Branch for three years, was

concerned about being late while McCullough called a girlfriend from the phone booth nearby.

McCullough, who is employed as a baggage handler at the Newark Airport was as surprised as his friend to know why he was sleeping in "paddy wagons" descended upon them.

McCullough was shocked when the police officer snatched the receiver out of his hand and demanded to know who he was sleeping in. The student said that the officer yelled into the phone demanding to know who it was and repeatedly accused him saying, "I know it's your connection."

The bewildered pair were taken to the Newark's 5th precinct and charged with loitering and obstructing a public thoroughfare. They were taken in with 20 to 30

other people, and despite their protests and their willingness to show their I.D.s, were arrested, searched, fingerprinted and detained for seven hours in a holding area without having been "Mirandized."

The pair said that they were released at 5 p.m. after someone was finally found that would consent to sign the arrest sheet.

Referring to the arrest report, Det. Daniel Collins of the Police Director's Office said, "Officers James Hill and Larry Blake were responding to a call that sidewalk access was being denied by busses at Aldene Street and Lyons Avenue."

The officers claimed that they drove by and warned the party of young men not to loiter. They returned later and found the same group blocking access and forcing pedestrians to walk in the street.

At their arraignment at 31 Green Street in Newark, Davis and McCullough pled not guilty and asked for a public defender. When told of what was contained in the police report the young men shook their heads. McCullough said, "There were only two or three people waiting on the corner. We've never been arrested before and we sure didn't have anything on us."

"We tried to show them our I.D.s



Timur Davis, one of the students caught in the Newark Police sweep.

so they would let us go but they wouldn't even look! When told that the neighborhood was a reputed "hot spot" Davis replied, "This is a bus stop, the hot spot is in front of the bar across the street!"

Their confusion was further com-

pounded when McCullough reported of someone who had been picked up with them who asked one of the officers when they would be able to go home. "The cop told them that we

See STUDENTS TRAPPED page 8

## Farrakhan named 'Man of the Year'

by William Reed



Min. Louis Farrakhan

Time, the nationally circulated weekly news magazine, annually names an outstanding individual in the world as its "Man of the Year." This year, Time named House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) as the individual who has had the greatest impact on American society this past year.

Gingrich had the most impact on American society through his leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives and the formation of laws and policies for the country, who is that had the most impact on Black American society in the year 1995? What individual had the most impact on African-American leadership? Who did the most in 1995 to

lead blacks to a higher plateau?

Through informal polling of numerous grassroots and establishment leaders by the staff of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), there was a total consensus that such an undisputed individual is Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.

With the success of the Million Man March last October, the honor of the most influential Black leader in the 1994 Black Press of America "True Voice Poll"—it became impossible to ignore him after his "Men Only Meetings" campaigns in 1994 and 1995 and the grassroots of support and endorsements among black groups and individuals he generated before, and after, the Million Man March.

In his 40th year of public minis-

See MAN OF THE YEAR page 6

## Eddie Bauer's tarnished image



Jan Johnson, VP City News Publishing Co. returns a recent purchase from Eddie Bauer.

Eddie Bauer hires a predominantly white PR firm to handle the situation, of the terms are have filed a \$85 million lawsuit against the company, alleging false imprisonment, defamation of character and violation of Civil Rights.

Black leaders in the Maryland area say they are concerned that member of their communities—especially teenage males—are automatically scrutinized more closely by store employees and guards than their white coun-

terparts. In October both teens were accused by two out of uniform off-duty police officers in the Eddie Bauer store when the officers demand that one teen show the receipt for a shirt he was wearing that had been purchased the day before. When told that he didn't carry his receipts on him the teens was told to take the shirt off of go home and get the receipt.

## Hate in cyberspace

by Greg Williams

Researchers say that racism and anti-Semitism on the Internet is a growing problem. Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, says Internet access providers, including Netcom—the nation's largest—have some responsibility for it.

Netcom provides Internet access for two such groups that, according to Rabbi Cooper, are the most vehemently racist and anti-Semitic hate groups on the Internet—the National Alliance and Scriptures For America (SFA).

At issue is the free speech-oriented, democratic culture of the Internet versus hate speech in a national climate of racial tensions and domestic anti-government terrorism. Netcom, denying any responsibility for the hate messages, recently made publicly clear that as a provider they will not act to censor content of messages posted to the Internet.

The National Alliance, who identifies Martin Luther King as a "Marxist tool," posts its membership application for "any white person (a non-Jewish person of European ancestry)" in cyberspace. The group's stated goal is to create an "Aryan Society" that must have a "thorough rooting out of Semitic and non-Aryan values and customs."

SFA presents as "facts" on the Internet that the IQ of American "Negroes" is from 15 to 20 points below

those of American whites; that the Negro race is no less than 200,000 years behind the European in skill and brain development and, incredibly, that apartheid in South Africa benefited blacks.

Rick Eaton, a senior researcher with the Wiesenthal Center, who on a daily basis tracks white supremacists, anti-Semitic and Neo-Nazi hate groups on the Internet, blames Internet access as providing tremendous benefit to these groups. He claims such access sets the stage for groups to pose a threat to national and international security.

"The fact is that a whole anti-Semitic and racist community is being created on the Internet. People are joining these hate groups on the Internet all the time," affirmed Eaton.

"They are always trying to figure out how to mainstream their message. Clearly cyberspace is something that is a dream come true for these kinds of groups because it enables them to use the Internet at many levels...and do the rough equivalent of a 'drive-by' hate attack—they can go anonymous."

On the Holy Days of the Jewish tradition a hate attack called "spamming" took place. The Wiesenthal Center researchers termed this a vile anti-Semitic and racist message called the "Long March" to African American and Jewish Internet newsgroups. Spamming is defined as posting unwanted material to newsgroups that has nothing to do

with the subject of that newsgroup.

The hate messages likened African Americans and Jews to "piranhas" who are told they don't belong in this society. African Americans were denigrated in the messages as mentally inferior, with a statement saying the theory of human equality "has been scientifically demonstrated time and time again to be false."

The company discovered the spam was sent out "primarily" from Germany and Italy, the latter sent through an illegally obtained computer site, called the National Alliance and other such groups "Neo-Nazi quasi-Christian racist" groups.

The Netcom official said the company would not attempt to track down the spammers "because we were not involved in any way with its dissemination."

Loftus stressed that as a provider, Netcom provides Internet access "for all kinds of people and our interest is in doing that without prejudice."

Rabbi Cooper said he felt that those who sell and provide Internet access to the public should be held responsible if such access allows persons to spread hate internationally.

"The providers can't sell Internet to America as your one-stop shop for information and education and your kids homework and then say they can't get in anything about quality control. They just can't be a bank, saying give us the money, see now—it just doesn't work that way," he said.

## Remembering Dr. King



Juan Williams (c) author of Eyes on the Prize is greeted by Senator Wyoma Lipman and Congressman Donald Payne at the Friday, January 12 celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday celebration held at the Newark Club. The event was sponsored by the Newark YMCA.

Photos by Glen Peterson

# PEOPLE

## Irvington honors black achievers



1995 Black Achiever Donald Monah

administered through local YMCA's, links public high school minority students with the honorees, who become volunteer counselors, tutors, friends, confidantes and role models to the youngsters.

Monah is a planning specialist with the Public Safety Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey where he has worked since 1985. He is also a member of the Irvington Planning Board and the International Youth Organization and serves as the treasurer of the Family Service Bureau in Newark.

West is principal of Augusta Street School in Irvington. He completed the Harvard University Leadership Institute in August 1995 and the program at the Princeton University Principals Center in July 1994.

To qualify as a Black Achiever, candidates must have distinguished themselves in their personal, professional, and community involvement.



**NEWARK**—Governor Christine Todd Whitman (R) and John Dandridge, Jr., (c) president and CEO of United Healthcare System speak with Anita Fails, M.D., Pediatric General Surgery, United-Children's Hospital of New Jersey, at the governor's December press conference to introduce Children First, a health insurance program for uninsured children. More than 300 employees and visitors of United attended the press conference where Whitman described Children First, "a program that will help us bring our children out of the cold and into the healthcare mainstream."

Photo by Chronicle Corporate Photography

## Mayor Bost attends seminar to improve city



Irvington Mayor Sarah Bost

**IRVINGTON**—One of only 18 African American female mayors and the only one representing the northeast, Mayor Sarah B. Bost of Irvington participated in the National Conference of Black Mayor's Eighth Annual Leadership Institute for Mayors last month at the Kellogg Executive Conference Center, located at Tuskegee University in Alabama. The program provides the mayors with a mechanism to exchange ideas and to interface with experts on municipal administration; help obtain resources to optimally benefit the mayors' communities and improve skills in several areas of government process and management.

## Placide named information officer



Joseph Placide

In addition, he served as director of the Office of Community Affairs for the New York City Department of Transportation, handling press, policy development, and program implementation.

Placide reports that he intends to have a solid relationship with the Newark community and plans to keep all local press in tuned on all events taking place within the school district.

"Everything that happens in the school system is of particular importance to the students and parents who are the stakeholders," Placide stated. "Because of my experience with the African-American community, I have an increased sensitivity of when people need to know and receive timely information about their communities."

Placide also stated that under his tutelage the Black Press will be the respect that it deserves and has earned through its decades of serving the black community.

Placide holds a Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Urban Affairs and Policy Analysis from the New School for Social Research in New York City.

## Union County opens Customer Information Center



**WESTFIELD**—Cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of Union County's Customer Information Center at the County Complex on North Ave. in Westfield, and the start of the Customer Information Line located in the Administration Building in Elizabeth are, from left, Freeholder Elmer Erti; Freeholder Chairman Linda Di Giovanni; Freeholder vice chairman Ed Force; Assemblyman and former Freeholder Alan Augustine; County Manager Ann Baran, and Freeholder Walter McLeod. Citizens can call the Customer Information Line at 908-658-7000 for an on-the-spot answer to an inquiry. "Our Customer Information Center is designed to make County programs and services easily accessible and under one roof. Westfield was selected as the site because it is centrally located and more accessible to residents in the western end of the county than our Elizabeth offices," said County Manager Ann Baran.

## POSITIVELY BLACK

## Do you really have a friend?

by Junious Ricardo Stanton

Alice Walker once said, "No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies you right to grow." What kind of friends do you have? Are they nurturing and supportive of you, of your interests and dreams? Do they encourage you to become your greatest self, or do they demand conformity to their narrow world view or lifestyle?

Birds of a feather flock together. What type of people do you associate with? Are they upbeat, progressive souls who have a sense of meaning, purpose or mission in their lives? Or are they content going by, being couch potatoes engaging in frivolity, stagnation and/or self-destructive behaviors? Do they nurture and support you, or your lifestyle says volumes about you.

Are your friends race conscious? Do they have any idea who we are, what we have been through and what we are up against as African people in this country? Or are they in a stupor induced by the educational system and misinformation pumped out by the mass media? Are they aware of what's going on politically in the world, or are they clueless to the real deal? Do they pretend things aren't as they are in America, or are they working to make things better?

Do you have white friends? Do they like you for your desire to be around them and be like them? Is the friendship strictly on their terms or are you allowed to be a conscious and productive African. Can you talk candidly with them about race issues? Are they willing to entertain your perspective? Do they accept and validate your life experiences? Do they admit America's history of racism and the possibility that they may harbor some bigotry in their hearts? Or are they in total denial about race matters? Do you do everything in your power to avoid the race issue, including acting apologetic and non-African?

Friendship is too important not to be taken seriously! We get therapy, encouragement and a sense of self from those with whom we associate. That is why it is vital we assess the quality of our friendships and acquaintances. It is our responsibility to cultivate the best friendships/relationships possible. There are two kinds of friendships—toxic and nurturing. Toxic relationships are belittling and demean you; they undermine your mental and emotional well-being and block you from being your truest and greatest self. Toxic friendships are those that encourage the status quo; they resist growth and change. Toxic relationships are confining and restrictive; if you entertain any new ideas you are criticized or contradicted. Toxic relationships are draining; they sap the vitality out of you, leaving you worn and spent emotionally and physically.

Nurturing friendships are enabling and enabling. They enable us not only to feel good about ourselves and the relationship, but they also are mutually supportive and beneficial. Nurturing relationships encourage us to take risks, to grow and expand our horizons. Nurturing friends are happy for us when we succeed. They supply solace and encouragement when we fall short of our aspirations and expectations. Nurturing friends offer constructive criticism, suggestions and advice. Nurturing friends push you out of your comfort zone; they are cheerleaders and counselors nudging you onward and upward.

Take a look at the types of friends you have. If they are toxic, drop them like a hot potato. (If your friends read this and you get dropped, it may be a sign you are the toxic one!) Critically examine why he or she is your friend, what each of you brings to the relationship and what you get out of it in proportion to what you put into it. If there is a major imbalance, you may have to re-examine the relationship. Don't be afraid to scrutinize your friendships—your well being will depend upon it!

One sure test whether a person is your friend is his/her response when you share your goals and aspirations with them. If they put you down verbally, or if the relationship disintegrates, he/she was not really your friend in the first place. The best friend you can have next to the Creator is yourself.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**THRU FEBRUARY 20**  
**PLAINFIELD**—Literacy volunteer of American Plainsfield chapter is hosting a Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop at the Plainfield Public Library every Tuesday. Workshop begins at 6:30 p.m. for more info call 908-755-7998.

**THRU MARCH 16**  
**NEWARK**—Division of Recreation/Cultural Affairs (DORCA) offers overnight Ski & Summer Camp #896 for more info and registration call (DORCA) at 201-733-9454.

**THRU APRIL 15**  
**NEWARK**—Division of Recreation/Cultural Affairs, is holding registrations for Othello-Othello Basketball at all Recreation Centers, for more info call 201-733-6454.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**  
**JERSEY CITY**—Jersey City State College Women's center lecture series on self-esteem "Women Raising your Self-Esteem" at 4:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**  
**PLAINFIELD**—Plainfield Senior Citizen Center bus trip to Atlantic City leaving the center at 9 a.m. For more info call 908-753-3306.

**CRANFORD**—The Union County Child Protection Council meeting at 9 a.m. at the Catholic Community Services. For more info call 908-555-3232.

**CRANFORD**—UCC open house highlighting its newly renovated Chemistry labs from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monahan building of the college campus. For more info call 709-7515.

**MONDAYS & THURSDAYS**  
**PLAINFIELD**—Plainfield Senior Citizens Center craft making classes at 9:30 a.m. For more info call 908-753-3505.

**PLAINFIELD**—Free financial aid workshops to help prospective students. Workshops begin at 5 p.m. For more info call 412-3571.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**  
**RUTHERFORD**—Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Chi Sigma chapter Founder's Day Brunch at the Meadowlands Hilton at 10 a.m. For more info call 201-942-8666 or 201-684-5998.

**PATERSON**—The annual "Black & Gold" scholarship dinner of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity will be held at the Brownstone House on W. Broadway. For further info call 201-595-2986.

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## NATION

## Supreme Court may limit black representation in Congress

National News  
at a glanceBLACK  
CONGRESSIONAL  
SEAT LOST IN  
LOUISIANA

A federal court has redrawn Louisiana's congressional boundary lines eliminating Rep. Cato Fields' majority-black district because it was drawn with an unconstitutional emphasis on race. The new plan imposed by a three-judge panel gives the state six mostly white and one mostly black district, which is based in New Orleans. Fields' district had cut a 250-mile swath from northwest Louisiana to Baton Rouge, in a pattern described by the judges as an embolus with an "aimless and tortuous path." Louisiana's next congressional election must be held under the new map. The loss of Fields' congressional district brings to three nationwide the number seats lost by blacks due to "unconstitutional boundary" drawings. Cynthia McKinney's and Stanford Bishop's districts in Georgia were recently eliminated.

—NEW ORLEANS, LA.

NEW YORK CITY  
SHOULD ESTABLISH  
PANELS FOR RACIAL  
DISPUTES

New York City must establish procedures to keep racial tensions from turning to violence, as was the case in a recent fire in Harlem that killed seven people, the New York Beacon reports. "This horrific incident has once again focused the attention on the serious racial and religious tensions that divide us," the Beacon quotes New York Civil Liberties Union Director Norman Siegel. Seven employees of the Harlem clothing store Freddy's Fashion Mart died in a fire set by a black man, Roland J. Smith, Jr., who shot and wounded four people before killing himself. It has been classified as a "bias crime" because of race-based threats and statements made earlier by participants in an organized boycott of the store. Siegel said rather than officials pursuing legal action against the protesters, they should devise new methods for dealing with racially explosive situations. —NEW YORK

BLACK PRESS  
LEADERS ELECTED TO  
POLITICAL OFFICES

Publishers of black-oriented newspapers have traditionally been leaders in their communities by their media voices. Now, in recent elections in Southern cities three African-American publishers have been elected as political leaders. Melvin Williams, publisher of the Macon Courier and past first vice president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), was recently sworn in as a member of the 15-member Macon (GA) County Council. Williams captured 69 percent of votes cast in the election and his victory gave Macon County its first black-controlled council. Also, in Daytona Beach, FL, Charles Cherry, publisher of the Daytona Times and Florida Courier newspapers, was elected to the Daytona Beach City Commission. Cherry had been a major critic of local government and had sought a commission seat in four other election tries. Cherry has owned, or managed his own real estate firm, radio station and weekly newspaper since moving to the Daytona Beach area in 1982. Floyd Adams, publisher of the Savannah Herald, was recently elected mayor of Savannah, GA.

—WASHINGTON, DC

OFIELD DUKES GETS  
GIBSON AWARD

Ofield Dukes, a Washington, DC-based public relations expert recently received the D. Parker Gibson Pioneer Award from the National Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee (NMAC) of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). NMAC annually presents the Pioneer Award for distinguished personal achievement and outstanding contributions to the profession by a minority who has over 15 years of public relations experience. Dukes was chosen for his outstanding career and dedication to the profession, teaching hundreds of students at the college level. In 1975, Dukes, who has worked with sev-

eral district was unconstitutionally drawn because it attempted to maximize the number of African Americans in the district in an attempt to increase the chances that an African American would be elected. Effectively, the Supreme Court required strict scrutiny—the highest level of judicial review under the Constitution—in those cases where race was the "predominant factor," motivating the legislature in drawing or redrawing a district. In order for a redistricting plan to survive it must be narrowly drawn to achieve a compelling government interest.

The Supreme Court made this pronouncement in light of attempts by Southern states to comply with the Voting Rights Act and to provide an African-American presence in Congress. Instead of supporting these worthy goals, the Supreme Court made it tougher for them to be achieved.

The Texas case, Bush v. Vera and the North Carolina case, Shaw v. Hunt, provide the Supreme Court with the chance to modify and clarify its decision in the Georgia case, or it could make the requirements more severe.

The states of Texas and North Carolina attempted to comply with the Voting Rights Act and the De-

partment of Justice by creating what are called "majority-minority districts." A majority-minority district is a Congressional district in which a racial or ethnic majority makes up the majority of the population or the majority of the voting-age population.

Some Southern states, such as Texas and North Carolina, are required to obtain approval from the Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia when changing or implementing a redistricting plan. These states must obtain approval because of past discriminatory voting practices. Further, when implementing redistricting plans, the Department of Justice has instituted the cynically sounding, "max-black" policy. That is, the Department of Justice requires these states to maximize the number of minority districts.

The facts of the Texas and North Carolina cases are similar. In the Texas case, six white Republicans challenged two majority African-American and one majority Hispanic districts. The trial court held, in holding the districts unconstitutional, that the three districts were not narrowly drawn. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, however, argues that the Texas districts were drawn not only to include greater minority representa-

tion, but for additional reasons. These additional reasons make all the difference. The districts were drawn, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund argues, to meet the demands of the Voting Rights Act, protect incumbents, and maintain partisanship in Texas elections.

In the North Carolina case there is a challenge to the two majority African-American districts. One of the districts is a rural district with a 53.4 percent African-American voting population. The other district is urban with a 53.3 percent African-American voting population. In defending the districts, the state of North Carolina argues that the districts satisfy a community interest in having both rural and urban districts; the one person, one vote rule and the interest of protecting incumbents. Opponents of the districts state that the Voting Rights Act does not require the creation of these districts and that the districts are not narrowly drawn.

Both states are attempting to meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and to remedy, in some small way, past voting discrimination. A benefit of this attempt is that the African-American and Hispanic communities have the chance to elect representatives that come from our

communities. The Supreme Court should allow the growth in minority representation in Congress to continue. Without the creation of these districts and the enforcement of the law by the Department of Justice, it is likely that African-American representation in Congress will be severely limited. These cases provide the Supreme Court with the chance to show that the Constitution truly protects the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

Eric H. Kearney is a Cincinnati attorney. He is publisher of News, Information & Pictures Magazine.

## Walls Continued from page 1

and help out the local economy." He added, "Her vote points up how she pays lip service to urban New Jersey but fails to deliver when the time comes."

THE FIZZLING OF THE  
REVOLUTION

WASHINGTON DC—News stories on the anniversary of the Republican takeover of Congress this week noted that, after all the bellyhoo about the Contract With America, only two of the Contract's items had actually been enacted.



## GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

"We support lots of parades. Even one that goes right through your living room."

—Jim Henderson  
Owner/Operator  
Paterson, NJ

As one of the major supporters of The College Fund / UNCF's annual "Parade of Stars" telethon, McDonald's® owner/operators have helped raise over \$130 million for UNCF's 41 member colleges and their students.

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## EDITORIAL

### The buck stops here, but will learning start?

In her "State of the State" address, Governor Christie Whitman finally took a stand on the hand-in-hand problem of school funding and poor educational performance that has plagued New Jersey for over 20 years, claiming it to be the state's number one problem. Funny how it took her two years in office and who knows how many years as a resident of the state to realize how bad things really are.

Most of what she said to say was general and broad and really didn't tell how the truly planless to improve the plight of our children's educational system, while at the same time cutting the spending. In fact the overall cutting of spending seemed to be her key focus, in the improvement for the education of the young of today and the future.

But how can an across-the-board spending cut truly benefit the learning process? The structure of many urban school systems are unfortunately at lower standards than the more affluent ones already. Adding the computers and training teachers to carry out her new educational plan for all schools, both rich and poor, that aren't already properly equipped will very easily keep the spending up. Where exactly will she cut the money from?

Until Gov. Whitman can come up with a more detailed plan and present it in a way that can be understood, the educational system and its spending dilemma are still "going to hell in a handbasket," with no hope in sight. Until then we must marshal the strength to ensure that the state and school districts meet their responsibilities preparing them to compete not only nationally but globally. Now that Governor Whitman has given her State of the State address, perhaps now she can provide some real solutions to New Jersey's greatest challenge.

by Connie Woodruff

It's that time of year again when practically everybody I know pauses to remember the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Since January 15 became a national holiday it has been of particular interest to politicians of all colors, genders and parties to show how communal they are in honoring great Americans without regard to skin color.

I don't know what I resent most; the commercial spin put on the holiday, the exploitation of his memory, or the casual manner in which any of us have let his "dream" float adrift in a sea of ignorance.

Certainly Dr. King would not be happy with the world today. He made the supreme sacrifice—giving up his life—for the peace and equality at home and abroad that has not been achieved even as we stand on the threshold of the 21st century.

He would applaud the progress African Americans have made in politics. But he would be sadly disappointed in the way black family

life is disintegrating.

MLK was real big on families, the traditional two-parent family, the church family, the family of man.

He would frown on black politicians who have not found a way to deal with poverty and lack of opportunity for people of color.

He would disapprove of politicians who feather their own nests on the backs of the people who put them in office. And he would be appalled at the state of urban America that is but surely going down the drain.

The record shows that poverty in America was cut in half during the War on Poverty years and began a steady rise throughout the 11 years of Reagan-Bush.

President Clinton may have had the best intentions to reverse the downward spiral of cities where most black people live. But with a Congress that is hardly what we think of as cooperative, it's not easy.

In the final days of the Bush administration, the poor and minority Americans were even overlooked during the census count. That will deny cities of hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars in federal aid. Martin Luther King would be the first to warn of pending disaster if urban America is written off because government does not understand them and believe the people who live there don't count.

This is why I get so angry at black politicians who use this arena to lift themselves out of poverty while their undereducated, unemployed, unhappy "brothers and sisters" struggle to survive by whatever means necessary.

Celebrating the King memory is fitting and proper homage for one man who made a difference. The speeches about his courage and vision are stirring. Dedicating streets, schools, housing projects and government buildings to his memory make us proud.

But more than these superficial, materialistic testaments to his memory, we need to consider programs that call for action. Even Dr. King would say he did not come to this country by faith alone. He was a thinker who had some long-range plans; a trail seldom found in those who purport to be our leaders.

"All in the family" is the name of the game of New Jersey's Paynet family. When Craig Stanley was sworn in as an Essex County Assemblyman, Congressman Donald Payne showed up at the Trenton ceremonies. Stanley is the congressman's nephew and Donald worked hard to help get the 30-something legislator elected.

It came as a surprise to many to learn that Craig's chief of staff will

be another uncle, Bill Payne who is never far from his congressman brother's side.

Does this mean Bill Payne will put aside his (unplanned) plans to run for mayor of Newark in 1998? Or will he have help from a congressman and an assemblyman in his second try for the office?

Too soon to reveal names—especially when the guys are shy—but at least two men are seriously considering challenging congressman Payne in next year's Democratic primary.

The current Essex County Board of Freeholders has been called many names by taxpayers who have followed the board's antics for a half dozen or so years.

But last week they were praised for re-electing board president Joe DiVincenzo to a second term as their leader.

DiVincenzo deserves another term. In one year he did more than his two presidential successors. He showed courage in reproducing a staff of 80 aides to 45, reducing overtime by rescheduling meetings to accommodate voters and encourage broader participation.

He slayed Freeholder meetings in every municipality in the county, and wiped out so-called "discretionary grants" that funded local programs. It was common knowledge that groups with the right political connections or those considered "politically correct" benefited most from the grant program (funded by taxpayers' dollars). It's refreshing to see a Mr. DiVincenzo for a change.

## What can save us from a second slavery?

Part 1 of a series

"... The power of the ballot we need in sheer self defense—else what shall save us from a second slavery?" —W.E.B. Du Bois

by Sharon Khadija Vincent



We don't need to spend unnecessary time debating the issue of whether we should participate in any of the upcoming primaries or general elections that will be taking place throughout 1996.

What ever your political viewpoints or party-affiliations are—it doesn't really matter.

What does matter most, is that we vote and encourage other people to exercise their franchise right, as well as remind them of the sacrifices that it took to obtain it. If for no other reason than to pay tribute to those brave men, women and children who marched, fought and put their lives on the line—and many who lost their lives—we need to work to bring out record numbers of people to the polls in 1996.

Those individuals and groups who claim that it doesn't really matter if people vote or not, and believe that we are powerless to make real changes, negate historical facts. In addition, they offer no viable and realistic alternatives to not voting beyond state and useless rhetoric that breed and foster the feelings of hopelessness, powerlessness and despair in our communities.

History has demonstrated time and time again, that it indeed matters if people participate in the democratic process, and it does make a difference whom the people elect to represent them. Sometimes, the choices have been bad ones, and there have been

terrible consequences to pay as a result of electing individuals to office who proved to be poor representatives and leaders.

But, whether the choices have been good ones or bad ones, the right to be able to make those choices must be protected and never taken for granted.

In 1996, we must purge ourselves of the indifference and apathy plaguing our communities, and fight back against this latest retrograde trend that has been taking place all across America. It eerily resembles the backward trend that took place in the post-reconstruction period of the latter part of the nineteenth century. After the abolishment of slavery in 1865 with the passage of the 13th amendment, from 1867-1877, there was a period of years of tremendous change and progress ushered in, known as the period of Black Reconstruction.

The history books have generally omitted, left out entirely or distorted the important time in American history. Some of the most tremendous gains for African Americans were made in the political and business fields—which is probably why white historians have ignored and lied about this important time in American history.

The Post-Reconstruction period saw all of the gains and progress made from 1867-1877, systematically eroded and rolled back. Gains made in the areas of voting rights, political representation, economic empowerment, social reform, etc., were systematically wiped out, repealed and eliminated, followed by an reign of terror and the era of Jim Crow.

The similarities between the retrogression that occurred during the 1896 American political landscape, and disappointing.

But what is troubling and frustrating to us is that this situation did not have to be and these employees should not be forced to bear the brunt of the city's fiscal woes. It is not just their deficit and not their fault. We urge the mayor and the City Council to take the necessary steps to restore fiscal sanity and compassion to the city. There are several things we recommend.

1) The administration must let the council and citizens of East Orange know exactly how much the city deficit is. Be clear this is not the mayor's, the council's or the employee's deficit, it is the city's deficit. And the citizens have a right and ought to know, what the deficit is. It will ultimately be known, and sooner is better than later. This is not a time for finger pointing or blame laying; this is for a later time. But now is the time for opening up the books and providing information so intelligent decisions can be made and solutions put in place.

2) We recommend that employees that more than 70 or 80 people being forced to bear the brunt of this fiscal crisis by every employee of the city share in bearing the brunt. It is unfair, in fact it is wrong, to make 70 or 80 employees take pay cuts of 20 to 40 percent

and efforts to turn back and eliminate gains made during the activist years of the late 1950s, 1960s and 70s are alarmingly familiar. The increase in attacks and scapegoating of the poor, children, African Americans and other oppressed nationalities, all mirror past events.

The Next Gingrich clones of 1996 mirror this. Andrew Johnson clones of 1886, and the "Bull" Connor clones of 1956. Truly, we need to study our history, so we can learn from it, draw valuable lessons, and hopefully, help prevent repeating it.

Throughout 1996, in a series of articles and commentaries, the focus will be on the various political, social issues and events that are important and of interest to our communities, both locally and nationally.

The series "Freedom Vote 1996: Recommitment & Reaffirmation" will review historical events that have relevance to today's issues and topics; report on current events; and provide commentary and analysis. Readers will be encouraged to provide feedback and responses to questions, surveys, and issues raised, and their issues or topics that you would like to see reported on in this series, your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Four years before the start of the next millennium, 1996 is a crucial year. The positive aftermath of the historic Million Man March continues to reverberate in our communities. The need for continued education, reflection, reaffirmation and recommitment is vital to our progress. Key to any strategy, has to be the use of the "power of the ballot."

We all have to be responsible for asking and posing the questions to our leaders and cynics such as W.E.B. DuBois

raised in his historic book, *The Souls of Black Folk*. If not the use of the vote, then what else? "... shall save us from a second slavery?"

## Miss Christie's Driving...



THE PASTORS' WORD

## City should take steps to restore fiscal sanity

by Revs. Reginald T. Jackson & Michael Sykes

No one who is sensitive and compassionate cannot help but be moved by the pain and anguish of East Orange city employees who have been laid off or demoted. For them and their families this year will be dimmed

### CITY NEWS

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City News is published weekly by City News Publishing, Inc., 1774 Plainfield Road, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07068. Phone: 908.754.3400 Fax: 908.753.8076.

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while others, including the elected leadership of the city take none. No leaders should ask their followers to do what they are not willing to do. City employees put the administration in a difficult situation by refusing to accept alternatives in the first place.

Therefore we again recommend that every city employee be asked to take an 8 percent pay cut, beginning with the mayor, administration and council. This is much fairer and allows every employee to share in addressing this problem.

3) We recommend that those employees who have been demoted be placed back in their previous positions at their previous salaries and previous job titles.

4) We recommend that serious consideration be given to the report from the East Orange Budget Advisory Committee. All of their recommendations cannot be accepted, but likewise all of them should not be rejected.

Many of them have merit. It makes no sense to appoint a committee and arbitrarily dismiss their recommendations. We know the council has the final word but when the government seeks no input from the general public it leads to cynicism and turmoil.

5) We recommend that the mayor and council hire an audit firm with no connections to anyone in city government, and may be recommended by the League of Municipalities to review East Orange structure, operations and finances, and recommend ways to provide better services, reduce cost and make government more efficient.

This is a difficult time for East Orange. It is our hope, in fact our prayer that the mayor and council will act responsibly in this crisis. For the good of the city, leave your egos at home, your personal animosities out of City Hall and work together on the people's behalf. Each of you were elected to lead and at no more critical time does the city need leadership than now.

One final recommendation: We recommend that Council president Scotland call his colleagues together and walk up the steps and meet with the mayor and his staff in that beautiful conference room and correct the wrong done to those 70 or 80 employees and then begin to work on resolving this crisis.

We believe one day next week would be good. It would give the city and its citizens some reason to hope that the new year will be better. God's blessings be with each of you.

If you haven't got it, you can't show it.  
If you have got it, you can't hide it.

—Zora Neale Hurston

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# YOUTH REAT

## KID CALENDAR

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**  
**CRANFORD**—Intensive training in basketball, soccer, and tennis for children ages 7 to 12 at Union County College. Training sessions begin at 10:15 a.m. and will run until February 10. For more info call 908-709-7600.

**NEW YORK, NY**—How Do I Be A People? mime and mask performance by Erica Sabad at HERE, located at 145 Avenue of the Americas. For ticket info call 212-647-0202. Showtime is 3 p.m.

**JANUARY 20 & 21**  
**SAVERVILLE**—The popular children's story "Aladdin and His Magic Lamp" will be presented at the Club Béné Children's Theatre. Showings will be at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For more info call 908-727-3000.

**JANUARY 20 & 27**  
**NORTH BRANCH**—The Secret of the "Cardboard Rocket" at Raritan Valley Community College. Travel with two adventurous youngsters in their cardboard rocket as they explore the sun and the planets of the Solar System. Showtime is 1:30 and 3 p.m. For more info call 908-231-8805.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30**  
**NEWARK**—Registration for Junior Museum Winter/Spring Weekday Pre-school. After-school and home-school '96 workshops in the South Wing Education Center of the Newark Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6838.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31**  
**NEWARK**—Registration continues for Junior Museum Winter/Spring Weekday Pre-school. After-school and home-school '96 workshops in the South Wing Education Center of the Newark Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6838.

## Rutgers offers enrichment program for parents and children

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—A Saturday enrichment program for gifted children and their parents will begin Saturday, February 17 at Rutgers.

Small groups of children ages 4 through kindergarten will take part in sessions that encourage independent and creative thinking during the 10-week program, to be held in the Psychology Building on Rutgers' Busch campus in Piscataway. Sessions will be conducted by doctoral students in school psychology at Rutgers' Graduate School of the Applied and Professional Psychology.

Tuition for the program is \$275. However, enrollment is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. A sliding fee scale is available. Children of full-time Rutgers students may attend free of charge. Additional information is available by calling 908-445-6141 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

## Spring scholarship tryouts

**NEWARK**—Fred Daniels, director of the Newark School of the Garden State Ballet has announced Spring Scholarship tryouts for boys and girls ages 7 to 12 years. Tryouts will be held on January 20th and January 27th. Children who are selected will enter a three-week Introductory Program offering free instruction in ballet and jazz.

The Introductory Program is open to children who have not had any previous training. Annually, 150 youngsters participate in the Introductory Programs, held in the Fall, Spring, and Summer.

At the conclusion of the Introductory Program, students who demonstrate interest and ability will be eligible to continue their training under partial or full scholarship assistance.

The school's scholarship program is supported by grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge and Victoria Foundations as well as contributions from major corporations.

The non-profit school established in Newark since 1951, enjoys a national reputation for a "tradition of excellence" in training, exemplified by the many graduates who have pursued successful professional careers in major dance companies.

The school also offers classes for youngsters starting at age 4 years. Class schedules are available on request.

For complete information as to the time of the scholarship tryouts, applicants may contact the Newark School of the Garden State Ballet at 45 Academy Street, 623-1033.

## Jan Ernst Matzeliger: the king of shoe-making

1852-1889



centers—in the nation, he could barely speak a word of English. No one knew him; he was poor and friendless. However, when he died thirteen years later his name was known not only in Massachusetts, but wherever inventors gathered.

Matzeliger laid the foundation of the shoe industry in the United States and made Lynn, Massachusetts the shoe capital of the world.

Before Matzeliger, hundreds of inventors had labored and thousands of dollars had been spent in an effort to make a complete shoe by machinery. The task of attaching the leather uppers to the sole was done by a costly and tedious manual process that required highly skilled craftsmen called "binders."

Handsetters were highly skilled and well paid, but their work was slow and inefficient. Matzeliger heard of the problem and invented the "shoe-lasting" machine that automatically stitched the leather of the shoe to the sole. He worked for 10 years with no encouragement and a lot of jeers from the public when his project was revealed.

In 1882, after feeling that he had perfected his machine, Matzeliger applied for a patent and sent his diagrams to Washington.

Patent reviewers could not understand them because they were extremely complicated. A man named Lynn reviewed the model in order to understand it.

On March 20, 1883, patent #274,207 was granted to Jan E. Matzeliger. Six years later he died of tuberculosis.

Reprinted from Great Negroes Past and Present

## Learning is key to black survival

by Melody Micere Stewart

**WASHINGTON, DC**—An old African American truism states, "If you want to hide something from black people, put it between the covers of a book."

This is a particularly sad statement to acknowledge, considering that African people were the originators of knowledge, having laid the foundations of world civilization as the first people to live on the earth. What has been hidden from us is a wealth of knowledge which, if studied, will empower us individually and collectively.

The power of knowledge must not be taken lightly. Beginning with the era of enslavement, reading and writing were legally forbidden fruits not to be eaten by African Americans.

The hope of an entire people was hinged on acquiring an education which would liberate African Americans, enabling them to handle their affairs in all manner of human endeavor, from politics to economics to organizations of social, educational and moral uplift.

The need for education was underscored by a number of our most influential leaders, including Frederick Douglass, Carter G. Woodson, Booker T. Washington and Mary Bethune.

W.E.B. DuBois, the great scholar

and intellectual, wrote extensively about the ultimate need for an educated class of black people. In one of his autobiographies, "Dark Opinions," he wrote: "I believed in the higher education of a Talented Tenth who, through their knowledge of modern culture, could guide the African-American into a higher civilization."

I knew that without this, African-Americans would have to accept white leadership, and that such leadership could not always be trusted to guide African-Americans into self-actualization and to its highest cultural possibilities.

Education, as explained to us by African American scholars, is not simply for one's own benefit. It was, and still is, a tool for our collective empowerment. The challenge to learn our history, apply the lessons and teach others begins with each one of us wherever we happen to be.

Our Kemic ancestors gave the definitive command when they wrote: "Follow in the footsteps of your ancestors for the mind is trained through knowledge. Behold their words endure in books. Open and read them and follow their wise counsel." The sooner the better.

Melody Micere Stewart's column, reprinted here, is a regular feature of The Charlotte (N.C.) Post.

## ATTENTION ASTHMA PATIENTS

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## School fairs stimulate science interests

**PLAINFIELD**—Are you a science buff, craving for action on anything related to science? Well the Plainfield Public School district has scheduled its annual Science Fairs and Invention Conventions to be held in the elementary and middle schools from January 8 through February 13.

Students from kindergarten through grade eight will participate in the annual event. Professional employees from AT&T, BellCore and

the Elizabethtown Water Company have volunteered to serve as judges.

First, second and third place prizes are awarded at each grade level at each school. First place winners will go on to participate in the 9th Annual Districtwide Science Fair at Plainfield High School along with the high school's science projects.

The districtwide fair will be on February 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the high school gym and cafeteria.

"The science projects in the fairs involve young people in problem solving and cultivates an interest in science," said Albert Musummo, science coordinator for kindergarten through grade eight.

Musummo reported that judging will be extended over three days instead of two because the quantity and quality of the projects created by the children has increased so much this year.

## Girl Scouts develop business skills while selling cookies

**MONTCLAIR**—Members of the Girl Scout Council of greater Essex County will be developing and practicing marketing skills during their annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale taking place now through March 25.

While having fun selling their cookies, the young ladies will practice the art of presentation, accounting, bookkeeping, sales, public relations and goal-setting.

Each lesson is reinforced by practice

Last year, the cookie sale helped underwrite the cost of membership, handbooks, troop activities, and day or resident camp fees for girls who exhibited financial need; programs on a council-wide basis to keep participation cost per girl affordable; development of resource materials for troops and volunteers; maintenance and repair of properties, rented facilities, and equipment; and training for

volunteers and older Girl Scouts.

During the 1996 sale, Girl Scouts will be offering eight varieties of cookies including Samoas, Thin Mints, Trefoils, Tagalongs, Do-si-dos, Chalet Cremes, Juliettes, and Snaps, a low-fat cookie. The cost per box is \$3. For further information about the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex County Cookie Sale, call 201-746-8200.

## Discover how math can be a blast

**WYNNWOOD, PA**—Now brought to you by a talented team including famous actor, Morgan Freeman who is responsible for numerous projects for the Children's Television Workshop's Sesame Street and Square One, comes a new video for children of all ages interested in becoming a fraction expert and having a great time along the way!

The three-tape video collection Fractions And Some Cool Disruptions has been produced with the conviction that it is high time that math-

ematics textbooks should be brought into the television age. The lessons taught in the animated sections are expanded upon by the live instruction and is done by actor Alex Corcoran.

The mathematics is done by Dr. Cleus O. Oakley, former chairman of Mathematics Department of University of Pennsylvania, a distinguished Math Educator, Dr. Bruce Rind, Professor of Psychology at Miami University and director of this course; and producer Alicia M. Boyd.

Each lesson is reinforced by prac-

tice problems that students may solve for themselves. After attempting the problems, students may check their work against the explanation of the correct way to solve the problems.

It is the goal and hope of the authors, both artistic and mathematical, that Fractions and Some Cool Disruptions will not only entertain but teach.

For additional information call 800-383-8811, ext. 182. The collection is sold for \$59.95

## Matching scholarships for 1996

**WAYNE**—William Paterson College in Wayne will match scholarships awarded by the state of New Jersey to highly-achieving high school seniors who plan to begin pursuing college studies in the fall of 1996.

The college will match, dollar-for-dollar, the \$1,000 Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholarship

and the \$500 Garden State Scholarship, for up to four years, pending enrollment at the college. The two state scholarships may be used toward tuition, room, board and fees at any approved New Jersey institution of higher education, including community colleges, colleges and universities.

The matching WPC awards, which are not based on need, may be used in conjunction with other WPC scholarships to cover tuition, room, board and fees.

Students interested in additional information on the scholarships should call WPC's Office of Admissions at 201-595-2125.

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# LIFESTYLES

## 'Man of the Year'

Continued from page 1

tering, some believe the 62-year-old Jesus-quoting Muslim has eclipsed even the stature of Martin Luther King at his apex.

Minister Farrakhan has been Louis Eugene Walcott in the borough of the Bronx, New York in 1933. He was the youngest of two sons of Mac Clark, a deeply religious and strong willed woman who immigrated to America from Barbados, West Indies in the early 1920s.

His father, a schoolteacher and Baptist preacher, left the family shortly after Farrakhan's birth, and his mother raised the family through employment as a domestic worker.

Farrakhan grew up in the Roxbury section of Boston, Massachusetts, just south and west of its downtown section. He graduated from Boston English High School, where he was a champion sprinter, played the violin and performed drama. As a young man, he was also a choirboy in the St. Cyprian Episcopal Church.

Farrakhan earned a track scholarship from Winston-Salem Teachers College, spending two years there. He later used his Caribbean musical background to earn a living in his twenties as a guitar-playing calypso and country singer.

He was recruited into the Nation of Islam by Malcolm X in 1955. Farrakhan became Malcolm X's assistant in Boston and later minister at that Mosque when Malcolm moved to Harlem.

During that period, he first changed his name to Louis X, and then to Louis Abdul Farrakhan. He eventually followed Malcolm X to the Harlem Mosque and replaced him there as its minister, as well, after Malcolm left the Nation of Islam in 1964.

From his platform in the Harlem

Mosque, Farrakhan started to perform as chief spokesman of Nation of Islam leader, Elijah Muhammad. Under the tutelage of Muhammad, Malcolm X grew to national prominence, as would three others in later years: Silas Muhammad, Yahweh Ben Yahweh and Farrakhan.

When Muhammad died in 1975, his son, Wallace, began opening up the Nation of Islam to all Muslims regardless of race. Farrakhan balked shortly thereafter, and, in his quest to "keep the teachings of Elijah Muhammad" alive, he began publishing the *Final Call* a similar version of his teacher's newspaper *Muhammad Speaks*.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Farrakhan struggled to rebuild the original version of the Nation of Islam after divisions in its philosophy and finances.

Like his direct tutor, Elijah Muhammad, Farrakhan is devoted to the teachings of Marcus Garvey, the Jamaican black nationalist who galvanized the American black community in the early 1920s.

Fundamental tenants of Muhammad and Farrakhan come from Garvey and his United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), which taught blacks should be proud of their color and heritage while pursuing economic self-sufficiency and self-help.

Nation of Islam business interests include Clean 'n' Fresh grooming products, the newly opened Salaam Restaurant complex in Chicago, security firms that guard government-owned public housing projects nationwide as well as private sector firms such as Federal Express. The Nation of Islam is currently building a printing plant for the *Final Call* and other publications.

## Rev. Van Pelt returns to Plainfield

by Charles Chrystal



PLAINFIELD — The Rev. Darrell Alan Van Pelt, formerly of Plainfield, began his ministry at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 300 E. 5th Street, Plainfield, at a worship service on Sunday January 14, 1996.

The pastor's first sermon in his home town was focused on "Applying the Word," but it seems more like the father of three is going to be applying to his new ministry the participation of youth and the progressive techniques of what he calls "megachurches."

Rev. Van Pelt told of a church in Nanuet, NY that started in the livingroom of someone's house and now includes 5000 worshippers. "The Church is at a point of change," the pastor said, "and has a lot to learn from the Pentecostal megachurches," the rev. noted.

"The use of radio, publicity and cooperation with other churches are ways to make us more dynamic. We have a youth fellowship but I want to expand the program—the same with the outreach program. Our soup

kitchen could be used as a means to educate."

One thing that concerned Rev. Van Pelt was, "The Church used to be an agent to transform society. Now society dictates what the church can do—this needs to be changed." The pastor doesn't anticipate any obstacles from the elders or the congregation, "They just need to be convinced and I've got lots of experience doing exactly that."

The pastor also mentioned that there was a small number of black Presbyterian ministers in this country.

"We have to take four years of college and three years of seminary and get the approval of the presbytery. The older preachers think that it's just too much. What they don't understand is that the education is necessary because it also includes psychology so that we will be able to administer properly to our worshippers. That is what makes the Baptist ministry so appealing. They think that all that is necessary is to receive the traditional calling and then they all have to do it get themselves a bible..."

Rev. Van Pelt and his wife Delores with their three children: Christon, Gregory and Jennifer have relocated to Plainfield from Mississippi. He is the son of Harold and Alice Van Pelt who are the proprietors of an insurance agency in Plainfield.

## BOOK REVIEW

## Help has arrived

by Kelly Howard

The plight of the African American male is one that all have seen since the beginning of their time in this nation. The harassment from police, endured by him is often a heavy weight on his life. Without any guidance in how to deal with this never ending problem, he may and does feel that there is no hope. Finally, someone has taken the time to openly discuss this issue and offer some practical solutions.

**Rule # 2—Always carry The Little Black Book with you.** Inspired by the ever present and growing hostility towards African American males, Taylor started her survival guide to save the lives of African American males from this institutionally racist society. The Little Black Book breaks down thirty critical and easy-to-understand rules pertinent to the survival of young African American men.

Covering a wide area of important points The Little Black Book provides advice on health: **Rule #18—Do not take drugs unless your acupuncturist or doctor tells you to.**

**Education: Rule #28—Learn to read, write and type and to speak**

English correctly.

**Protection on the street: Rule # 13—On subway trains, in stations, ride near the conductor. Stand in "safe" waiting areas or near the token booth.**

And dealing with police officers: **Rule #7—When approached by police do not take this time to try to prove your manhood.**

In addition to the powerful bombs that Taylor drops, *The Little Black Book* is pocket size—which adds to easy accessibility. An individual can pull out their personal Little Black Book out while waiting for the bus, riding in the car, between classes, or anytime it's necessary to raise your consciousness.

As a mother and healer, Carol Taylor provides love and concern for the plight of her son, for the many African American men and boys, and their future. The Little Black Book should become required reading for every African American man, woman and child and Carol Taylor should be commended for her efforts.

To order a copy of *The Little Black Book*, send \$2.00, plus one .32 cent stamped self-addressed business envelope per book to: Carol Taylor, 1149 Ralph Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11236.

## Free eye exams offered for low income workers

TRENTON—Low-income workers and their families in Mercer County can get free eye exams through a program called VISION USA. As part of a nationwide program, optometrists in New Jersey who are members of the New Jersey Optometric Association are donating their services

to provide comprehensive eye exams to low-income workers.

To qualify for the free eye care, persons must have a job or live in a household where there is one working member; have no health insurance of any kind; have income below an established level based on household size;

and have had no eye examination within two years.

Application forms are available by writing to VISION USA, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141. Completed forms must be postmarked by January 25. For more information call 1-800-766-4466.

## First Men's Summit scheduled for Gateway City

NEWARK—For two weekends in January The Sons of Isaac Men's Ministry will hold its 1st Men's Summit 96 at the Randall Chapel Church in Newark.

The members of the ministry believe the family is still the most important unit in society, and that spiritual

warfare is largely won or lost in the home. The main purpose is to strengthen families by building good principles into men.

Bosting a theme of "Men: Seizing Our Spiritual Dominion," the Summit's itinerary includes worship services, workshops, fellowship, and a special

"Father and Son Outing." Services will be conducted by a group of ministers including Bishop Donald Hillard Jr. of The Cathedral in Perth Amboy. Event dates are January 19 to 21, and 26 to 28. Early registration is \$15 and on site registration is \$20. For more information call 201-371-6114, 418-6359, or 416-9087.

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3/1 ARM		30 Year Term		Converts to 1-Year ARM in 3 years after which rate may increase or decrease annually	
RATE	APR	MAXIMUM LOAN	MONTHLY P&I PER \$1,000	CAPS	
6.500%	7.410%	\$500,000	\$6.33	2% annual & 5% lifetime	

1 YEAR ARM		30 Year Term		Converts to 1-Year ARM in 1 year after which rate may increase or decrease annually	
RATE	APR	MAXIMUM LOAN	MONTHLY P&I PER \$1,000	CAPS	
5.750%	7.540%	\$500,000	\$5.84	2% annual & 5% lifetime	

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100 Westinghouse Avenue  
SHORT HILLS:  
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## Business Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**  
NEWARK—Business Briefing Series Workshop "How and Why to Prepare a Business Valuation" sponsored by the Regional Business Partnership from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Newark Club. For more info call 201-242-6237, ext. 222.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**  
UNION—Small City/EDC holding The New Jersey Small Business Development Network Workshops on How to Obtain a Micro-loan for business in Union County. For more info call 908-247-2356.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—The New Jersey State Bar Foundation is sponsoring a free seminar on residential under-ground oil tanks at the New Jersey Law Center. Speakers will include attorney, Harriet Jane Olson. To register call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19**  
CAMDEN—Developing a Business Plan and Internet seminars, sponsored by the NJBDO. \$15. For info call 609-225-6221.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**  
MIDDLESEX—Middlesex Chapter of NAABO Basketball Fund-raiser for Scholarships for Women. For info call 609-395-8717.

## BUSINESS EXCHANGE

## Black economic development in the '90s

## Generating our own grits and groceries

by William Reed

Are white people in a conspiratorial effort to keep us down? Or, is it possible that we each have our collective destinies in our own hands, or, at least, in each of our pocketbooks. Who among us can deny that if we really want to break the effects of racism and discrimination, we could easily do it with the economic power?

If we started off 1996 in a new economic mindset by looking at what minority groups like Jews and Asians have done with their collective actions, and stop thinking of ourselves as "poor" and "minority," we will all recognize what it means to say that our \$400 billion annual income is higher than the gross national product (GNP) of 94 percent of the world's industrialized and developing countries.

But if black people really want financial independence and economic development, we are going to have to take collective action. When we understand that our present situation

can be traced to choices we made in the past, we can use this knowledge to position ourselves to make the choices that guarantee a promising future.

It's not as if we each don't know what the real problem is, rather it is refusing to take responsibility for our own actions. It is easier for us to blame the white man for our situation than it is to take up our own cross and carry it.

From Chicago's West Side to South Central Los Angeles, we prefer to "dis" white, Arab, Asian and Jewish merchants for disrespecting us because it is easier than taking collective actions through our churches and clubs and build our own shopping centers and commercial strips.

Each and every African American, from Boston to Bakersfield, knows that we are going to have to improve our financial and economic presence in the American, and world, community or we will continue, like lemmings, to sink into the sea of

decay.

White people have a right to feel they've done as much "affirmative action" as they should when they look around their offices and factory floors and see numerous black faces.

What they don't see are the other two-thirds of African Americans still looking for jobs, housing and career opportunities. What they do see are our self-appointed poverty pimp-leaders continually asking them for another handout to "help us lift our boats off the bottom" of the country's economic ruins.

Structures such as a display of black collective economic development will manifest itself to the world when we own state-of-the-art shopping centers.

We need retail and wholesale distribution processes that are owned by numerous groups, organizations and individuals among us, and a presence in the revenue stream that brings cars, clothing, computers, corn flakes and other items into black households. But the problem with blacks

who've reached middle-class status, as well as those of us who're not been as economically fortunate, is that we are individuals who collectively don't see the need to be a part of any collective of black economies.

Even though a larger segment of black America, than any other group, is collectively at the bottom of the nation's economic barrel, with all of its problems of crime, violence and lack of basic First World facilities, we manifest our collective consumer power and lack of unity of purpose like crabs in a barrel as "independent" consumers. As a group, we spend 95 percent of our income outside our communities. Asians, less than 10 percent of our size, spend almost 90 percent of their income with each other.

While blacks avoid spreading our wealth among our own kind, those ethnic groups who've achieved economic freedom seek others of their kind to spend with, on purpose. As a people, if we are to survive into the 21st Century, we must do a better job

of laying a solid economic foundation for generations of our kind to come.

The next time you buy grits or groceries, or go to a garage, try to be the individual to jump start black economic development. If we will each personally get off the dime we'll stop talking about the problem—which we do every time we gather at a white-owned hotel or banquet facility.

We all need to look at the economic development and value we can initiate if we made collective investments—first as families, then as community groups and stock clubs. If we are to stop our lemming-like behavior we have to shop with each other, put our money in black banks, investment groups, insurance companies and whatever else that will help us achieve strong collective capitalism.

William Reed is publisher of Who's Who in Black Corporate America.

Economic empowerment: a few words to the wise

by James Clingman

"Now is the time—not in some far-off future, but now is the time—for us as a race to prove to the world that... we have the ability and the inclination to do our part in our own lives, developing, manufacturing and trading in the natural resources of our country. If we let these golden opportunities slip from us in this generation, I fear they will never come to us like a deer again. Let us act, before it is too late, before others come from foreign lands and rob us of our birthright."

—Booker T. Washington  
Those words were spoken Aug. 21, 1912, Washington was speaking to the National Negro Business League in Chicago, Ill. Haunting, ironic, prophetic? How would you characterize these words? From any direction, we can see that when it comes to black economic empowerment.

Washington pleaded for his people to work together. He begged for solidarity among black people. He admonished against what has now become a reality for many African Americans economic apathy and disinterest.

The gravest insult and most dramatic display of his warnings against the failure of merely seeking political offices without economic undergirding can be found in Tuskegee, Ala.

I recently spoke with a friend who had spent some time in Tuskegee last summer. She described a town with little or no economic infrastructure—a town whose residents must travel to other towns for medicine and other vital needs. Tuskegee, where it all began for Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee, where the philosophy of economic self-sufficiency was nurtured everyday, now serves as a monument, in name only,

to the principles that Washington espoused.

Had to say, many other cities are no better off. Lost somewhere in our zeal to integrate, having access to the economic resources of others, is our own economic plan for survival. We have ignored the words of Washington and many before and after him, and we are steadily making his dire prediction come true.

To some people Washington's ideas were radical: to others his talk of black economic unity was threatening. Some people believe his untimely death, at 58, was contrived in some way. Some believe he was simply murdered.

Whatever the case, Washington spoke words that are eerily haunting and forbidding, even more today than in 1912. He warned us that unless we take responsibility for our own economic destiny we will surely miss out on the opportunities that exist in this country. We have already allowed most of our land to slip away from us, a la the Native Americans. And you know what happened to them?

Our access to this country's natural resources is limited, as Washington predicted it would be if we did not act. Our concentration on gaining high office and being able to spend a dollar at the opera "blinded us to the fact that we must build our own economic foundation first before we take on other efforts that will not help our community as a whole."

Even today, as in Washington's time, some of our people do not want to hear those words. Needless to say, even today some people are still threatened by the prospect of economic unity among blacks. I do not plan to meet the same demise as Booker T. Washington, but I must continue to exhort my brothers and sisters to move toward economic unity. Unity, not the exclusion of

anyone else, white, red or yellow, but unity that includes all African Americans.

When asked in 1907 what black people need most, Washington replied, "Solidarity! We need as a race to learn to pull together. Civilization in any people is to a large extent the ability of the individuals of that people to combine their efforts for the good of the whole; it is the ability, while holding fast to individual differences of opinion and sentiment on minor matters, to be able to put these differences in the background whenever it is necessary to unite for the benefit of the whole community or the whole state."

If we do not learn to work together, to trust one another, to agree to disagree and still be friends and, more importantly, to pool our resources, Washington's "before its too late" prediction will one day soon reverberate throughout our communities, across this nation, and around the world.

James Clingman is the editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper.

Students trapped

Continued from page 1

en when they would be able to go home. "The cop told him that we could go when they picked up 40 people."

Political activist and podiatrist

News

Continued from page 3

eral different White House Administrations, won the "Oscar" of public relations, the Silver Award Award. He has taught public relations at Howard University for 17 years.

—WASHINGTON, DC

BLACKS LESS LIKELY TO GAIN MILITARY PROMOTIONS

A Congressional study found that blacks in the military are less likely to gain promotions than their white counterparts, but stopped short of blaming the problem on racism. The study by the General Accounting Office (GAO) found "statistically significant" evidence that blacks got promoted less often than would be expected based on their numbers in the armed services. Women appeared to be gaining proportionally more promotions than would be expected. The GAO reached no conclusions as to why disparities in promotion, but recommended that the Defense Department improve its equal opportunity monitoring. —WASHINGTON, DC

Dr. Colleen B. Walton, of Newark and a friend of Davis, believes that Councilman Bradley and Mayor James are very sensitive to any calls about loitering. "They want any excuse to make themselves look good and then they want to pat themselves on the back." She was outraged that "Our young men cannot even wait for a bus in broad daylight without being accosted by the police."

The young men were advised to engage the services of the Public Defender's Office. What they encountered was an oddly shaped room with all of white walls, a worn all-weather rug, a glass partition and tired people shuffling forms while "going by the numbers." One of the workers was detached and perfunctory in her manner and treated the whole matter like the lunchline at a fast food counter downtown. "Next. Do he work? Next. I'm only one person so you gotta wait. Next. I'll get someone who speaks Spanish. Next...."

The Mayor's Office, Councilman Donald Bradley and State Senator Ronald Rice could not be reached for comment on the matter of the sweep. Councilwoman-at-Large Mildred Crump was amazed by the whole affair. "I'm not one told me about any of this but I'm going to call the Director's Office and have them check." James Griffin from City Hall called and he also deferred to Dr. Collins in the Director's Office.

Davis and McCullough were given a trial date of April 8, 1996.

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When you are expecting a baby, Muhlenberg provides the assistance that gives you, your family, and your new baby a strong, healthy start. Call the Generations of Miracles Hotline at (908) 668-2353 to reserve your place for the Getaway Weekend in early February.

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